

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the office action, the applicant hereby elects claims 1-16 of Group I to be examined on their merits. Although claim 17 of Group II and claims 18-20 of Group III are withdrawn from consideration herein, the applicant reserves the right to present these claims in one or more divisional applications.

Non-elected claims 17-20 have been cancelled.

An early and favorable examination of Group I claims 1-16 are respectfully requested.

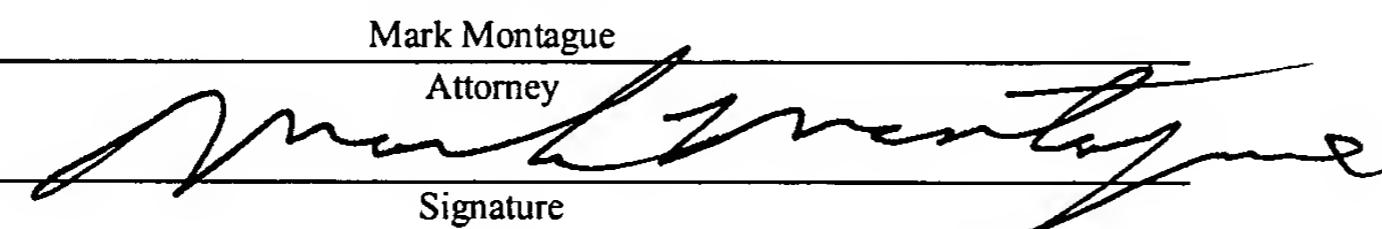
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 1, 2004
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 03-3415.